



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 325

February Session, 2004

Substitute House Bill No. 5376

House of Representatives, March 30, 2004

The Committee on Planning and Development reported through REP. WALLACE of the 109th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

**AN ACT PROMOTING COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN
HOUSING AUTHORITIES OPERATING ELDERLY HOUSING
PROJECTS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 8-114d of the general statutes is amended by
2 adding subsection (c) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2004*):

3 (NEW) (c) Each housing authority that operates one or more
4 housing projects pursuant to this part shall contact the social services
5 agencies that assist seniors and persons with disabilities in the
6 municipality in which the projects are located, including, but not
7 limited to, the area agency on aging, the mental health authority and
8 the center for independent living, for the purpose of entering into
9 collaborative agreements under which such agencies shall provide
10 services for such projects, including, but not limited to, training for
11 resident services coordinators, other staff and residents, regular visits
12 to make services available to residents, and assistance for resident

13 services coordinators and other staff with conflict resolution and crisis
14 intervention. The Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction
15 Services shall require local behavioral health agencies to contact such
16 housing authorities for the purpose of entering into agreements under
17 which such agencies shall assist the housing authorities in addressing
18 the needs of residents with behavioral health needs.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2004</i>

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

Changes were made to reflect the provisions of subsection (a) of this section.

HSG *Joint Favorable C/R*

PD

PD *Joint Favorable Subst.-LCO*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 05 \$	FY 06 \$
Mental Health & Addiction Serv., Dept.	GF - Cost	None	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 05 \$	FY 06 \$
Housing Authorities	Potential Cost	Indeterminate	Indeterminate

Explanation

The bill requires local housing authorities that operate elderly housing projects to enter into agreements with social service agencies for various services. The costs of such services and agreements are unknown at this time. Some services might be free, but the cost of others could be significant to an authority.

Although the bill specifies that the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) require local behavioral health agencies to contact housing authorities for the purpose of entering into assistance agreements, the bill does not require DMHAS to either provide nor pay for services. Therefore, no fiscal impact is anticipated for DMHAS.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5376

**AN ACT PROMOTING COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENTS
BETWEEN HOUSING AUTHORITIES OPERATING ELDERLY
HOUSING PROJECTS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires housing authorities that operate elderly housing projects to contact area social services agencies that assist elderly people and people with disabilities in their towns to enter into collaborative agreements for service. The services the agencies must provide under the agreements include (1) training for resident service coordinators (RSCs), other staff, and residents; (2) regularly visiting residents to make services available to them; and (3) assisting RSCs with conflict resolution and crisis intervention. Agencies under the bill include the area agency on aging, the mental health authority, and the center for independent living.

The bill requires the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services commissioner to require local behavioral health agencies to contact housing authorities to enter into agreements to assist them in helping residents with behavioral health needs.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2004

BACKGROUND**RSCs**

By law, the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) must award grants to housing authorities and other entities operating state-assisted elderly housing projects to hire RSCs to:

1. assist tenants to maintain independent living status,
2. assess residents' needs to establish and maintain support services,
3. maintain regular contact with residents,
4. monitor the delivery of support services,
5. advocate for changes in services residents seek or require, and

6. provide mediation and conflict resolution services.

Related Bill

sHB 5380, favorably reported by the Select Committee on Housing and the Planning and Development Committee on March 4 and March 12, 2004, respectively, (1) expands and redefines the responsibilities of RSCs and (2) requires DECD to arrange monthly in-service training and information sharing meetings for RSCs. Training must include information on the health care needs of seniors and people with disabilities, mediation, conflict resolution, and regional service resources.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Select Committee on Housing

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 13 Nay 0

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 16 Nay 0